

The Story of Larkin Newton

An Early Settler to Ellis County

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THE STORY OF LARKIN NEWTON

Larkin Newton was an early settler to Ellis County. He was born on March 17, 1794 probably in Newberry County, South Carolina.¹ The records of South Carolina for the years 1770 through 1800 suggest that his parents were John Newton, a sergeant in the colonial army, and his second wife, Naomi.

Larkin's father, Sergeant John Newton (1750-1799), was from Caroline County, Virginia. At age 20, he married Miss Mary Mitchell (Isaac Mitchell and Sarah Satterwhite), about 1770 in Granville County, North Carolina.²

Mary Mitchell Newton died sometime before 1790. John then married Naomi (née unknown). The 1790 census of South Carolina shows that John and Naomi had a family of three boys and five girls, indicating that Naomi may have had children from a previous marriage. It's unclear how many children were from the first marriage but some indications are that at least three of the children were by John's first wife, Mary.

During the Revolution Larkin's father, John Newton, served in the Second South Carolina Regiment. In 1799, he died intestate in Edgefield County, South Carolina. His widow, Naomi, was left to settle the estate. This settlement was made by 1801 and is the last record of Naomi Newton in South Carolina.³

By 1810, the family removed to Rutherford County, Tennessee. From there, both Larkin and his older brother John served in the War of 1812. John Newton served in the campaign against the Creek Indians in 1812 as a First Sergeant under the command of Colonel Thomas Benton and Captain James McFerrin. In 1814, at age twenty, Larkin mustered in as a Sergeant in the unit of Colonel John Cocke and Captain George Barnes. He eventually served under Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans. After the war he and his brother returned to Tennessee.

In 1815, John Newton married Jane Blair, daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Carnahan) Blair. The Blairs were known to have participated in the great religious revival

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of those days that led to the formation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Dickson, Tennessee some years later. Their association with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was maintained by members of the Newton family for many years in Arkansas, Missouri, and in Texas.

Records indicate that by 1815, the Blairs and the Newtons were living near one another on Cripple Creek, a branch of the Stones River in the eastern section of Rutherford County, Tennessee.

In the fall of that year, Larkin Newton mustered out of the military. With service pay still owed to him from the state of Tennessee, Larkin left his power of attorney with a law firm in Nashville for collection as the families continued their migration westward. They headed toward the new lands that had opened in Arkansas, then still part of the Missouri Territory.

The rivers were as roads to those early settlers and it was by the river that the Newton's and others made the trek west. The memoirs of Elbert C. Newton, written around 1880, chronicle the Newton and Blair families' migration.

The narrative describes how the men worked together for many days felling trees and fashioning the rough timber into usable lumber. They built several keel boats for their journey and lowered them into the Stones River.

After loading all their earthly belongings and their families onto the crude handmade boats, they began the arduous trip to Arkansas. They wound their way down the Stones River to the Cumberland River where it emptied into the Ohio. They then followed the Ohio until they reached the Mississippi. The Arkansas Territory was entered by way of the White River cutoff to the Arkansas River and northwest to the Crystal Hill township near Little Rock.

Some of the men traveled overland bringing the horses and cattle. They arrived at Crystal Hill sometime later. The Newton and Blair families arrived in Pulaski County before the end of 1815. ⁴

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By 1821, Larkin and his younger brother Bazillia (or Basil) separated from the clan and were living in Crawford, County to the Northeast of Little Rock.

Though there are no apparent land records for any of the brothers, early historians indicate that Larkin and Basil obtained land in Crawford County and that the first county business was carried out in their storehouse. The Arkansas Territorial Papers show both Larkin and Basil as having preemption rights to a large quantity of land.⁵

In November 1822, an unidentified epidemic (probably malaria due to the family's proximity to the river) struck the region. Within two weeks, John Newton, his wife Jane Blair Newton and her mother, Sarah Carnahan Blair died leaving four orphaned children with their grandfather, Thomas Blair and two uncles, Larkin and Basil Newton to care for them.

In his will written just one year before his death on November 28, 1821, in the Pyeatt township, John Newton named two daughters and two sons: Elbert C., Felisha, Betsy E. and Asa Richardson Newton.

He left his household goods to his young daughters and asked that his brothers Larkin and Basil care for the four children. It's likely that Larkin's mother Naomi and the children's grandfather, Thomas Blair, shared in this responsibility.

About 1828, the Newtons and their allied families made a move northward to the territory that was to become Washington County near the Prairie Township.

Basil Newton remained in neighboring Crawford County on Big Creek, south of the River. He later had to defend his land claim from the conflicting claims of others, even though he had substantially improved the land.

Many of the families, including the Blairs, settled near the Cane Hill Township of the Washington County area, and became some of the staunchest members of the Cane Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church founded in 1828. The Newton's near kinsman, the Rev. Jesse M. Blair, served as the first minister, of this church (1828-36). He

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lived out his life at Cane Hill and was killed by Union soldiers during the Civil War.

Elbert C. Newton, oldest son of John and Jane Blair Newton, was baptized into the Cane Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church at age 17 (circa 1831) thus beginning his lifelong dedication to this church in Arkansas, Missouri and Texas.

In March of 1829, Larkin was appointed to a committee with John Billingsly and Nathan Caughlin to layout a road leading from the county seat to the southern boundary of the county at or near Cove Creek.

The surveyor for that project and for the county was John Wilson an Irishman who emigrated to America at the age of eight. John had a daughter some eighteen years younger than Larkin, but apparently (for Larkin) old enough to wed. On October 13, 1829, Larkin Newton and Mary Ann Wilson were married.⁶

Larkin Newton became the first postmaster of Fayetteville in August of 1829. When not serving in a public capacity he earned his living through the operation of a grist mill. He resigned his position as postmaster in December of 1833.⁷

Both Larkin Newton and his mother, Naomi, are found in the 1830 Washington County Census in the Prairie Township. The orphaned children of John and Jane Blair Newton were found to be living in two different households. There were two adults and one female child (age 15 to 20) living in Larkin's household; the child evidently one of John's daughters. The remainder of the children were living with Larkin's mother, Naomi.

The census also indicated that Larkin Newton owned at least three slaves. By 1831, Larkin and Mary became the parents of their first daughter, Jane Ann Newton.

Larkin Newton was integral in the creation of the County of Washington and the city of Fayetteville. As one of four elected commissioners he, along with Lewis Evans, Samuel Vaughn and John Woody, helped to fix the town site for Fayetteville.⁸

In 1828, he became Washington County's first elected County Clerk serving in this post until 1830. He began his

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tenure as County Clerk without an office because the courthouse was not built until August of 1829. When completed, it was a mere one room log structure floored with hand hewn puncheons. The only other building in Fayetteville at that time was a similar structure with a dirt floor that served as a hotel.⁹

In 1834, after Larkin's resignation as postmaster, the Newton Family moved North to Barry County, Missouri. Larkin Newton once again was integral in the formation of a new county from a division of Barry. The new county was named "Newton". While no one is certain, it has been suggested that Newton County was named for Larkin's father. Certainly, Larkin Newton was influential in its naming.

The 1840-1842 records of Neosho, Missouri show that Larkin Newton was elected as judge for Newton County. He served with Judges Edward V. Warren and Samuel M. Cooley. The records of the New Salem Congregational Church show that his wife, Mary, was a member there on September 11, 1847.¹⁰

Larkin, with his nephews Elbert C. and Asa R. Newton, became early land owners in an area northeast of Neosho. Newton County grew rapidly as roads were created and as new settlers from the East arrived in large numbers. With their arrival, the county prospered.

The family's time in Missouri was one of transition. Elbert C. Newton became affiliated with the newly established Cumberland Presbyterian Church (New Salem) of Neosho serving in a leadership capacity. Naomi Newton, died sometime after 1840 in Neosho and was buried near the Hickory Creek lands that the Newtons owned.¹¹

The 1840 U.S. Census for Newton County, Missouri shows that three more children were born to the Larkin Newton family although family records indicate five: Amanda (1832), John (1834), Elizabeth (1836), Zilpah (1837) and Flora (1839). This discrepancy isn't unusual for early census takers were seldom sticklers for accuracy.

While in Neosho, three additional children were added to the family: James W. (1842), Mary Frances (1844) and

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Hulda J. (1846). The 1840 census also shows that Larkin had purchased five slaves since the 1830 census, but despite his apparent prosperity, new lands beckoned him and others South.

When Texas was still a republic, two large grants of land were made from the old Robertson's Colony empresario grant. They covered millions of acres in what is now called Northeast Texas; they were the Peters and Mercer Colonies.

After Texas became a state in 1846, these grants were continued in force, although many disputes arose over them in subsequent years. This land was advertised widely in the North and East, and drew settlers from many distant places.

The Newtons responded to the solicitation from the Peters Colony finding land situated in present day Ellis County. Asa R. Newton, with his new bride, the former Mary Powers, made the trip to Texas by the fall of 1844. He was accompanied by his older brother, Elbert with his family. The two brothers established themselves on land about eight miles northwest of Waxahachie in the Shiloh area of Ovilla.¹²

Larkin Newton's family soon followed arriving in Texas by early spring of 1848. Larkin Newton, took up his 640 acre tract of land southwest of present day Midlothian, Texas.

What he and other settlers encountered was described by one contemporary as a "hog wallow prairie". The unusual name was derived from the large matted down areas of prairie grass that were common to the region.

They found good black dirt for planting and acres of grass to graze their cattle. Water wasn't a problem for it gushed cold and clear from numerous artesian springs. Vast herds of bison roaming the area assured that the meat supply was plentiful. Deer, antelope and wild turkey were also found in abundance.

To hold their land, a proviso under the Peters Colony contract required settlers to build and occupy a house before July 1, 1848.¹³ Because trees they found were of insufficient number and of such poor quality to provide

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them with suitable building materials, they were compelled to look elsewhere.

To the North, in nearby Dallas County, was a dense cedar forest, the closest source for suitable lumber. The evergreens were subsequently felled in great numbers to provide the needed timber required by the numerous settlements.

Larkin and his sons worked for days to cut enough trees to build the four walls and simple roof of their home. They carefully loaded the timbers onto wagons and began the slow return trip home, their oxen straining under the weight of the burden.

The way was rough and uneven and there were many creeks to cross. After several difficult days the men finally arrived home exhausted.

With sharpened ax and other hand tools, Larkin and his sons masterfully shaped each log to fit one atop another until each piece of wood became an integral interlocking piece of the whole.

The simple one room cabin that they built has stood the test of time surviving the nearly 150 years since its creation. This is evidence of the pioneering skills Larkin and his brothers learned from their father and Larkin passed on to his sons. The cabin was situated on a hill near a spring just south of present day Midlothian. The creek that lay east of the cabin still bears the name Newton Branch.

Reports of hostile Indians supposedly prompted the Newton family to build a stockade enclosure near the cabin to protect their livestock. However, history records little if any actual Indian activity in the county with the exception of an occasional theft.¹⁴ In 1850, with his cabin built, Larkin Newton was finally issued a land patent certificate for 640 acres.

Larkin and Mary Newton brought nine children with them when they came to Texas. Two more were born after they arrived, the last in 1852. In the early years, no fewer than eleven people at one time lived in the small eighteen by eighteen foot square cabin that Larkin and his sons built.

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Life was not easy for those early pioneers. For them it was a continuous cycle of making do and living off the land, from one day to the next. They made almost everything they used and wasted nothing. There were precious few luxuries save those few pieces of furniture and other implements they might have brought with them from Missouri.

With the cabin, they constructed a fireplace from flat creek stones and mud. This is where Mary Newton did her cooking and was their only source of heat in the winter. She used a pot crane with iron and copper utensils in much the same fashion her mother had before her.

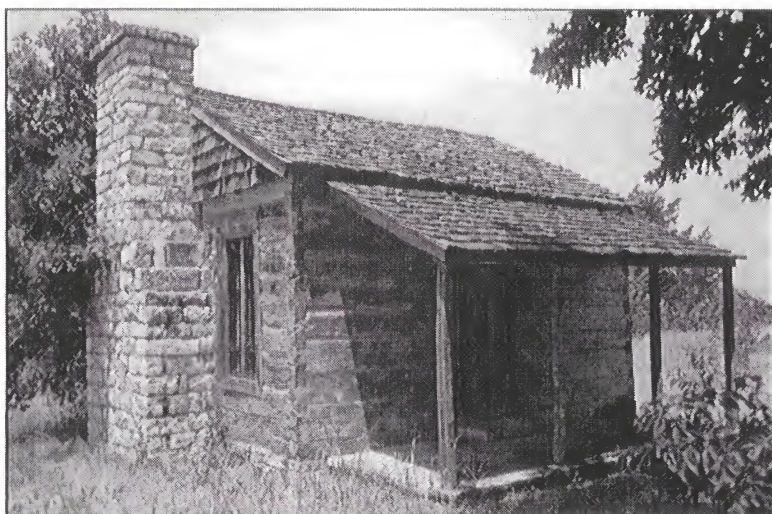
During the day, light poured through two small windows cut into one side of the cabin filtered only by oiled cheese cloth. The cloth served as a window screen to keep the insects out. At night their only light came from the glow of the fire and from tallow candles they made from the rendered fat of animals.

Plumbing consisted of water drawn by bucket from the well Larkin had dug across the creek from the homestead. On warmer days the family would bath in the creek; but in the winter they heated water in a large iron pot for baths, however infrequently, to be taken indoors. Of course, being modern folk, they constructed a privy some distance from the house.

Larkin, at age 54, had already outlived many of his contemporaries. By 1850, the average life span of an adult male averaged forty years. But, even at his advanced age, Larkin was active in civic affairs and soon became a highly respected member of the community.

In 1850, Larkin Newton, serving with James S. Barry, James Herron and Henry Trimble became one of four elected county commissioners who were instrumental in the formation of Ellis County from its parent county of Navarro.

Larkin Newton died May 21, 1858 at the age of 64 years, 2 months and 4 days. His wife Mary Anne died on November 12, 1876 having lived nearly the exact number of years months and days as her husband. Both are buried in the Newton Cemetery on the old homestead.



The Larkin Newton Cabin

The Newton Cabin is built from hand hewn red cedar logs about 5" thick. It's purportedly one of the few remaining Peters Colony structures in North Texas. The historical record shows that the cabins of this area were completed by the Peters Colony deadline of July 1, 1848.¹⁵

Though no precise dating of construction for the cabin can be established through architectural examination, it closely resembles others which were built in the mid-nineteenth century. The study of the growth rings of the cabin's logs, or *dendrochronology*, promises to yield an accurate date for its construction.¹⁶

Some people are surprised when they see the Larkin Newton cabin for the first time because it little resembles the preconceived "Lincoln Log" image that they have.

What's unique about this one room, single pen structure is its corner notching. In cabin building, notching is everything because the entire weight of the building rests on the four corners and therefore on the notches. Not only are the notches weight-bearing, but they also prevent horizontal slippage, thereby holding the walls in place. If the notching is weak, then the entire structure is weak.¹⁷

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The Newton cabin features the half-dovetail notch that accounts for about thirty-five percent of all log dwellings in Texas. This type of notch is found most frequently in Central and North Texas.



The Newton Cabin features the sturdy *half-dovetail* corner notching. In this picture, a variation of the *V notch* can also be seen. (Photo by author.)

At least two of the corners feature the V notch rather than the half-dovetail. The mixture of these two notch types has precedence and is commonly seen throughout North Texas and elsewhere. The north and south sills of the cabin are half-notched to the front and rear sills, which aren't notched. The cabin is square measuring approximately eighteen and one half feet along each exterior wall.¹⁸

Other common notch types within the state are: the square, and saddle notches. These notches are considered inferior to the half-dovetail and are regional being closely

The Larkin Newton Cabin

associated to specific cultural groups. The saddle notch, which does resemble the "Lincoln Log", was used in East Texas for houses but also largely throughout the rest of the state in the construction of out buildings.

The *half-dovetail* notch reportedly evolved in Central Europe and was exported to America by early immigrants. It was used broadly in Virginia and throughout the Upper South, Ohio Valley and North Carolina Piedmont.

The *half-dovetail* is so-called because it has a dove tailed slant only on the top side of the tongue of the log. The result is a superior notch, difficult to make but producing a firmly locked joint that has the added advantage of draining rain water to the exterior of the notch.

Half-dovetailing is generally an indicator of fine craftsmanship occurring usually on logs that are neatly hewn on two sides, as is the case of the Newton cabin.

Larkin Newton's choice of cabin building styles over one of the other methods that were quicker and easier is easily understood if we look at the influences that shaped his choice.

The Newton family had its domestic origins in Virginia. John Newton, Larkin's father, inevitably took the knowledge of cabin building and the *half-dovetail* notch with him when he migrated to South Carolina. It's logical to assume that Larkin and his brothers then learned the intricacies of this craft from him. Also, cabin building and barn raisings were often community affairs, so sons were exposed early on to the building techniques as they watched their fathers and neighbors cut timber and shape each log into neatly fitting structural members.

It's very likely that Larkin Newton used this type of construction on earlier homes in Tennessee, Arkansas and Missouri. Evidence for this is seen in the cabins built by those who lived near him in those places.

A partial reconstruction of the William McGarrah log cabin is now on display at the Shiloh Museum in Springdale, Arkansas. Built circa 1832, near Fayetteville, the McGarrah cabin shows the building techniques used by those living in that area. The cabin features the half-dovetail notching identical to the Midlothian cabin.

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Though there may have been no direct contact between these individuals, certainly the evidence suggest a very strong regional influence. From this we may draw a reasonable conclusion that many of the early cabins in the Midlothian area were of similar construction due to the influence of Larkin Newton, Benjamin G. Garvin, William Hawkins and others.

About 1880, a second structure, a school house, was moved to the cabin site and attached to enlarge the home to three rooms. Both buildings were covered with clapboard which archeologist have stated greatly aided in the preservation of the structure.

After the death of Larkin Newton and his wife, the cabin and surrounding property, including the Newton Family Cemetery, belonged to their son Thomas Newton and his family. It was later sold by the Newton family to John Belew who in turn sold it to Jim Darby.

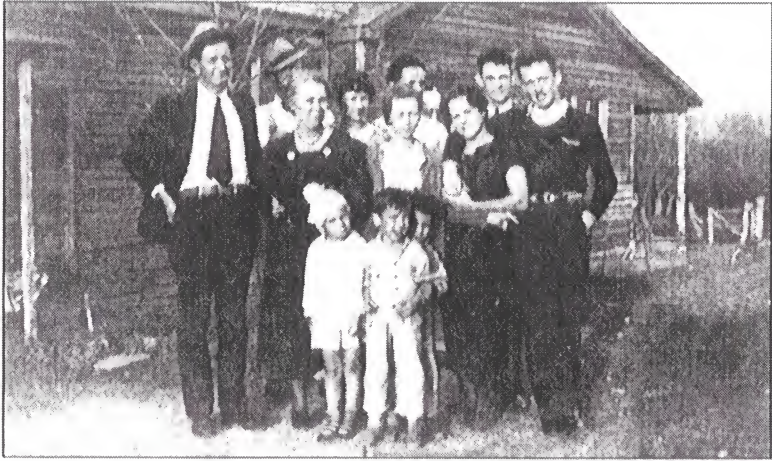
In 1908 the cabin and property was bought by Frank Reeves of Waxahachie, father of Harry and Leonidas (Lon) Clay Reeves. Harry Reeves lived in the cabin from 1911 to 1915 and Lon Reeves and his family lived there from 1915 to 1945. Mr. T.W. Burleson bought the cabin in 1946.

The cabin was ultimately abandoned and used as a hay barn for many years. Finally in the late 1960's it was purchased by the late Jack Anderson and his wife Brooks. The Andersons had the cabin carefully dismantled and relocated to their farm two miles north of Midlothian. It was fully restored and furnished by Mrs. Anderson with period pieces.

After Mr. Anderson's death, the Anderson property and the cabin were purchased by Gifford Hill Portland Cement Company. In a generous gesture, the Gifford Foundation offered the cabin and furnishings to the Ellis County Museum, Inc. of Waxahachie. The museum accepted the furniture, but the gift of the cabin was declined due to financial limitations and other practical considerations.

In the Spring of 1991, efforts began to obtain the cabin for the community. Negotiations were successful and from this was formed the Midlothian Restoration Committee.

The Larkin Newton Cabin



The Lon Reeves family lived in the Newton Cabin from 1915 until 1945. The cabin, (far right) is shown covered with clapboard. The schoolhouse addition can be seen to the left. *(Photo courtesy Mr. L.C. Reeves, Midlothian, Texas.)*

This committee was tasked by Mayor Maurice Osborn and the City Council to relocate the cabin and to find a use for the old abandoned fire hall.

In January of 1992, the cabin was moved to the downtown Midlothian Area where it has been restored to be the centerpiece for a new downtown park and historical district.

The Larkin Newton log cabin is more than just a source of deep pride for the city of Midlothian, Texas and for Ellis County, it's a reminder of our treasured past and a symbol of the pioneering spirit that forged both our community and great state from the wilderness.

Issue of Larkin Newton and Mary Ann Wilson

1. **Linnie Ann Newton**, also called Jane Ann in some text, was born July 5, 1830 near the Cane Hill township of Washington County, Arkansas. She married Charles Neely (1823 - Nov 1868) on May 19, 1852. Linnie died November 12, 1876.

2. **Amanda Newton** was born July 16, 1832 also near the Cane Hill Township. She married Marcellus Tolbert Hawkins(1824-1896) on April 25, 1850. Marcellus family arrived in Ellis County shortly after the Newtons in the spring of 1848. Marcellus and Amanda ran the area's first general store that was located at the Grange Hall of the original Lebanon community. Amanda died on May 17, 1914 and was buried in the Midlothian Cemetery.

3. **John Newton** was born September 15, 1834 in Newton County, MO. He married Lorinda Wilson (17 Oct 1841 - 17 Oct 1930) in 1867. John died on November 7, 1892.

4. **Elizabeth Newton** was born on May 26, 1836 in Newton County, MO. On January 29, 1854 she married Thomas R. Harris. She died on December 16, 1854.

5. **Zilpha Newton** was born on December 10, 1837 in Newton County, MO. She married first George Stiles (14 Dec 1825 - 30 Mar 1886) on 25 Nov 1858. After the death of her first husband, she married Andrew Mullin on April 20, 1888. She died on December 13, 1909.

6. **Flora Newton** was born on November 30, 1839 in Newton County, MO. She married William F. Barnett on January 20, 1855. Flora died on December 14, 1899.

7. **James Wilson Newton** was born March 18, 1842 in Newton County, MO. He married Annie Lucretia Hinkley(15 Sept 1847- 08 Feb 1939) whose father, Harrison Hinkley was the brother-in-law of Marcellus Hawkins. James died on June 29, 1883.

8. **Mary Frances Newton** was born August 16, 1844 in Newton County, MO. She married John Wesley Hawkins, Marcellus' Brother, on September 18, 1867. Mary died on April 1, 1924. She was buried beside her husband in the Midlothian Cemetery.

9. **Hulda J. Newton** was born on November 16, 1846 in Newton County MO. She married 26 Dec 1867 Edward West Bedford (25 Sept 1843-?) on December 26, 1867. Hulda died on December 30, 1875.

10. **Thomas Newton** was born on February 12, 1849 in Ellis County, TX. He was the first child to be born in the log cabin. He married Rhoda A. Vinson (2 Nov 1853 - 6 Jan 1926) on October 31, 1872. Thomas died on March 14, 1884.

11. **Texanna Newton** was born Sept 25, 1852 in Ellis County, TX. She married Jerome Stell on March 20, 1872. Texanna died on October 25, 1899.

Ellis County }
Texas } Is the clerk of the county
Court of said county. Sir you are hereby
Authorized to issue a marriage license
Authorising the marriage of ~~Wm~~
Barnett to my daughter Flora Newton
This 20th day, 1855
Larkin Newton

NASHVILLE, MAY 13TH, 1815.

I CERTIFY that *Larkin Newton* a *third*
lieutenant in *capt. Barnes' company*,
in my Division of Tennessee Militia, has performed a tour of duty of *six* months,

_____ days in the service of the United States—that his good conduct, subor-
dination and valor, under the most trying hardships, entitle him to the gratitude of his
country ; and he is hereby HONORABLY discharged.

Wm. Carroll
Major-General 2d Division Tennessee Militia.

Larkin Newton's military discharge, dated May 18, 1815.
(Courtesy Janice Harrell of Dallas & Ernest Young of Floresville, Texas.)

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1850 U.S. Census for Ellis County, Texas. Microfilm, Dallas Public Library.

Endnotes

1. The date of Larkin's birth was taken from his gravestone in the Newton Family Cemetery near Midlothian, Texas. His birthplace is confirmed through Census records that consistently list it as South Carolina. Earl F. Arnett has established the parentage and birthplace of Larkin Newton through extensive genealogical research. See "The Newtons of Early Washington County, Arkansas" in *Flash Back*, quarterly of the Washington County Historical Society. Vol. 35, No. 1. pp. 28 - 35, 1986.

2. *Arnett*, 1986, No marriage record has been found. Arnett suggest that the Mitchell family's migration through North Carolina on their way from Virginia to South Carolina coincides with that of John Newton and that the marriage may have occurred during the trip. This marriage was confirmed by documents left by one of their sons, Isaac.

3. *Ibid*, 29, 1986 John Newton has often been confused with another Sgt. John Newton who fought in the revolution. However, the latter was captured by the British at Charleston in 1780 and put on a prison ship rampant with smallpox from which he soon died. From this, Arnett is fairly certain that John of Newberry County, South Carolina and husband to Naomi, is the father of Larkin Newton.

When Sgt. John Newton (1750-1799) of Newberry and/or Edgefield County, SC died in 1799, he left a widow named Naomi (also spelled Neomy) who was his second wife. This was thus stated in a personal account written by Isaac Newton of South Carolina, third son of Sergeant John by his first wife Mary Mitchell. John and Naomi Newton lived in Edgefield County for about eight years prior to his death. The 1790 census shows children in their family who could not have been by the first wife.

Sgt. John Newton left no will and not much of an estate. In 1801, His widow Naomi settled the estate including the auction of personal goods. From that point, there's no further mention of Naomi Newton in the South Carolinian records.

At that time there was also a mass migration west to Tennessee that saw many allied families from South Carolina

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settle in central Tennessee. It's possible that Naomi Newton, with her minor children, was among those making this migration. Further, it is likely that Naomi was living in another household, the head of which is yet to be identified.

This migration might explain the presence of John, Larkin, and Basil Newton in Rutherford County, Tennessee in 1810. It would further explain how John Newton from South Carolina met and married Jane Blair of North Carolina in Tennessee. Finally, by association, this would help identify Naomi Newton of Edgefield County, South Carolina in 1799, as the same Naomi Newton in Washington County, Arkansas in 1830.

4. Arnett, 29, 1986, "...Apparently the trip was made safely: an account written in 1884 by Elbert C. Newton, son of John and Jane Blair Newton, gives a terse story of these travels. This account may be found among the unpublished papers of Myra McAlmont Vaughn of Washington County, which papers now reside at the Arkansas Archives in Little Rock.

This migration of the Newtons and the Blairs had been preceded by those of related Pyeatts, Carnahans and Billingsleys in 1811-12. In some accounts, of this early history, Jacob Pyeatt is credited with being in Arkansas as early as 1807. I question this date since Alabama records (Mississippi Territory) show related folks to be there in 1810. These were those dedicated Cumberland Presbyterians in search of new lands. Among them was the Rev. John Carnahan, brother of Sarah Carnahan Blair, and it is to him that credit for preaching the first Protestant sermon in the Arkansas Territory is given."

According to Mr. Arnett, the memoirs of Elbert C. Newton (1884) state that the Newtons and Blairs arrived in Little Rock in 1815. He describes Little Rock of 1815 as a small and insignificant settlement. Newton goes on to say that the home of John and Jane Blair Newton was eight miles north of Little Rock up the river. This location is further described as being "on the McHenry Farm above Crystal Hill".

Arnett further cites the book *Pioneers and Makers of Arkansas*, by Shinn that tells in some detail of Thomas Willoughby Newton (no relation) and only mentions John Newton in passing: "Before Thomas W. Newton, Sr. was registered in Arkansas there was a man named John Newton

Endnotes

living in Pulaski County on the north side of the river. He was a man of family, seems to have had an estate." (p. 194) Shinn also mentions Larkin and Basil Newton in Crawford County in 1821, but mistakes them for the sons of John Newton; when they were actually his brothers.

5. Ibid, 30, *Arnett* citing "Pioneers and Makers of Arkansas" by Shinn.

6. An inscription on Larkin Newton's headstone states that he fought at the Battle of New Orleans under Andrew Jackson. See also the facsimile of Larkin Newton's discharge papers on page 16 of this text. Original in the National Archives, Washington, D.C.; *Arnett*, 29, 1986; 1830 United States Census for Washington County, Arkansas. *Church of the Latter Day Saints International Genealogical Index*, Batch No. 8731602; *Pioneers of the Six Bulls, The Newton County, Missouri Saga*, Vol.XXII,p.34 *Washington County History*, pp.1497 -1498. Mary Anne Wilson's father, John was born in 1768 in Ireland. He came to America at age eight with his father, a loyalist, who was killed during the Revolution. He married Elizabeth Friend [14 Feb 1772 - 30 May 1826, Bedford Co., PA born to Joseph(1741-28 April 1806) and Rachel(17 June 1851-15 August 1832) both of Pennsylvania; Joseph Friend fought on the side of the colonies]. John Wilson was the first County Surveyor of Washington County. He died on May 3, 1846.

7. *HWC*,320 ; *Arnett*

8. *HWC*, 163, 168, 236, 1978; *WCH*, 1511, 1989; *Arnett*, 30, 1986

9. *HWC*, 234-235

10. Ibid; *Neosho, A City of Springs*, Newton County Historical Society, (Neosho, MO: Neosho Printing Co., c.1984), p.34.

11. Larkin Newton obtained land in Township 25, Range 30 of Newton County. *McDonald and Newton County Sections of Goodspeed's Newton, Lawrence, Barry and McDonald Counties History*, McDonald County Historical Society, pp.168, 174.

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12. His land patent designation was "Robertson 3rd Class, No. 1492"; *The Peters Colony of Texas, A History & Biographical Sketches of the Early Settlers*, p.352, 1959.

13. *Hawkins*, 1961: 11.

14. Oral histories and newspaper stories have since related various encounters with hostile Indians, however neither historians nor the historical record itself fully support such stories. Although there were sporadic raids until the 1880's, most took place in isolated areas. The Texas Rangers had previously driven a large portion of the Indian population to an area west of Ft. Worth. History also records that Sam Houston established permanent treaties with many of the Indian tribes prior to Texas' statehood.

15. *Hawkins*, 1961: 11

16. *Doward*, 1991: 1 At this writing, in October of 1992, the dendrochronological studies had not been done.

17. *Abernathy*, 1979: 79

18. *Dorward*, 1992: 1

